

Luke 20 Pt 1 vv 1-26 Showdown

Annihilate Deception with Truth

- King Jesus enters Jerusalem...
 1. **Praised by Humble** Common people/Children/Poor of Spirit
 2. **Cursed by Proud** Religious hypocrites jealous of His influence

Luke 19:47 [Jesus] was teaching daily in the temple. **But** the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people **sought to destroy Him**, 48 and were **unable to do anything... for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.**

Showdown in Jerusalem

Authority of Jesus is about to be Questioned

I. Jesus Authority Questioned

1 Now it happened on one of those days, as He **taught** the people in the temple and **preached** the gospel, that the chief priests and the scribes, together with the elders, confronted Him 2 and spoke to Him, saying, "Tell us, **by what authority** are You doing these things? Or who is he **who gave You this authority?**"

- **By what Authority** do you do these things?
 1. Teach/Preach
 2. Flip Temple Tables 2x

Who gave You the Authority?

- **Authority:** lit. Power to make decisions/Freedom to do so

3 But He answered and said to them, "**I also will ask you one thing, and answer Me...**

How to deal w/Disingenuous Questions from Self-Righteous Hypocrites?
Socratic Method: Answer their question w/a question

4 The baptism of John—**was it from heaven or from men?**"

- **3 Years Prior:**
 1. **J the B:** Last of OT Prophets walks onto the pages of NT
 2. **Clears a path** for Grace by **calling people to repent...**

Matthew 3:5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to [John] 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, **confessing their sins.** 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "**Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**"

- **Brood of Vipers:** Religious Leaders

1. Snakes hiding in grass waiting to strike
2. Same were in attendance when **John introduced Jesus...**

Lamb of God who takes away sin of the world...The awaited Messiah...Father's Beloved Son

Was John right about Me...or not?

5 And they **reasoned among themselves**, saying, "If we say, 'From **heaven**,' He will say, '**Why then did you not believe him?**' 6 But if we say, 'From **men**,' all the **people will stone us**, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet."

- **Jesus: Was John legit?** Was his authority from God or man?
- **Huddled among themselves:** God's Word not considered in conversation...
 1. **Yes** Then Jesus is the Lamb of God/Messiah/We need to repent
 2. **No** Stoned to death by those who believed John was a Prophet

Find themselves between rock/hard place. How'd they get there?

Did not consider God in the equation

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And **lean not on your own understanding**; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

7 So they answered that they **did not know where** [John's authority] was from. 8 And Jesus said to them, "**Neither will I tell you** by what authority I do these things."

Q. Where did Jesus authority come from? By what and from Who?
Jesus authority came from God the Father...

John 5:26 ...as the Father has life in Himself, so **He has granted the Son** to have life in Himself, 27 and has **given Him authority** to execute judgment [on man] also, because He is the Son of Man.

- **Jesus Judges with authority...**

John 17:1b ... Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have **given Him authority over all flesh**, that He should **give eternal life** to as many as You have given Him.

Matthew 7:28b ...the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as **one having authority**, and not as the scribes.

- **Jesus Speaks with authority** You have heard it say...**but I say**
- **Jesus Acts with authority** Raises dead, heals, delivers from demons

What is the Scope and Breadth of Jesus Authority?

Matthew 28:18 ... "**All authority** has been given to Me in **heaven and on earth...**"

- **All Authority** over Sickness, Demons, Stars, Planets, Eternity...For us **Sin, Death, Hell**
- **This is the authority** the prideful religious are questioning. **All authority!**

The Father Granted Jesus All Authority in Heaven and Earth
Jesus in turn grants authority to **whomever He desires**

Psalm 75:6 ...exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: **He puts down one, And exalts another.** His people...

Luke 9:1 [The Twelve] ...**gave them power and authority** over all demons, and to cure diseases.

Luke 10:19 [Seventy] ...**I give you the authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Ephesians 4:11 [Jesus grants authority/giftings in His Church] **He gave some** to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors** and **teachers**, 12 for the **equipping of the saints [Why?]** for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

▪ **God ordained Authority Structures**

1. **Godhead** Father/Son/Spirit
2. **Family** Husband/Wife/Children
3. **Church** Pastor/Elders/Deacons

All equal yet a God-ordained order of authority and submission
E.g. **Godhead**: Jesus is not less than the Father but willingly submissive to His will

- **Jesus grants authority** to church leaders He chooses to advance His Kingdom. Yet...

Self-Appointed/Unanointed Church Leaders Dangerous to others/In Danger themselves...

Revelation 2:18 [To the Church of Thyatira Jesus comes as Judge] 'These things says the **Son of God**, who has **eyes like a flame of fire**, and His feet like **fine brass 20...** I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who **calls herself a prophetess** [pride exposed], **to teach** and seduce **My servants** to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. [Consequence] 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds...

- **Jesus grants** authority to whom He desires/Least of us
 1. **Apostle Paul** [Saul] given authority over demons. 1 Cor. By grace of God I am what I am

2. **7 Sons of Sceva** sought to do the same **w/out God-given authority**

Acts 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "**Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?**" 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house **naked and wounded**.

- **Presumptuously** ventured out w/No God-given authority
- **Result:** Left naked/bleeding

Serious/Serious judgment for Prideful Self-Exaltation

I will ascend unto the mount of God: *Satan*

- To those who think they are called to be Spiritual Leaders. Make sure you are...

1. **Anointed** Set apart **to God** for a special/specific purpose
2. **Appointed** Selected **by God** for this time and place in history
3. **Authenticated** Validation **from God** manifested in good fruit

Luke 7:35 "...wisdom is **justified by all her children.**" **1 Tim 1:5** Love from pure heart...

- **So what?**

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. [Generalized to the Church] For there is no authority except from God, and the **authorities that exist are appointed by God**. 2 Therefore **whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will **bring judgment on themselves**.

Jesus authority is questioned by those with no real authority seeking to retain power for themselves. God-given authority in the church is often challenged by those w/no authority. **IOWs** It is dangerous for church attendees to view true church leaders as their own personal punching bags. On the other hand it is equally as dangerous for church leaders to go beyond the authority granted them by God. **Spirit led unity through humility** is key while we all **recognize Jesus** as the **ultimate authority and judge**. [NJC]

Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for **they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account**. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be **unprofitable for you**.

- **NOTE:** Lest any leader boast...Even a donkey was Anointed/Appointed by God

Question from Religious Leaders "**Who gave you authority?**" is left unanswered
Jesus has a story for them...

II. Wicked Vinedressers

9 Then [Jesus] began to tell the people this parable:

- Jesus speaking to common people in hearing of Religious Leaders [on purpose]

9b... "A certain man planted a vineyard, leased it to vinedressers, and went into a far country for a long time. 10 Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vinedressers beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

11 Again he sent another servant; and they beat him also, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And again he sent a third; and they wounded him also and cast him out. 13 "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect him when they see him.' 14 But when the vinedressers saw him, they **reasoned among themselves**, saying, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.' 15 So they cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

- **Vineyard Owner** God the Father
- **Vineyard** Nation of Israel
- **Vinedressers** People of Israel
- **Servants** Prophets to Israel Beaten/Sent away/Shamed/Wounded
- **Owner's Son** Jesus...

Killed by vinedressers to take His **inheritance** for themselves

Lit. To usurp power over souls

You know the story how this beloved Son of the Highest was all love and pity; and yet, with cruel hands, men cast him out of God's ancient vineyard, and crucified him, hoping [for His inheritance. Lit. Power over souls.] [Spurgeon]

- **Somebody getting fidgety...**

15b... Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and **destroy those vinedressers** and give the vineyard to others." And when they heard it they said, "**Certainly not!**"

This cannot be! Jesus reminds them what the Word prophesied about them...

17 Then [Jesus] looked at them and said, "**What then is this that is written:** 'The stone which the **builders rejected** Has become the chief cornerstone'? 18 Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." [C.f. Psalm 118]

- Guess who the rejected Stone is? Guess who rejected Him?

Who is the One proven to be Straight/True in every way just as the first stone laid in the foundation of the Temple? Who is the One you have been rejecting even so? He will be recognized as the Chief Cornerstone when all is said and done. **He is the Rock.** [NJC]

- **Jesus warns...**

1. **Fall on Me now** in worship/brokenness or
2. **Be crushed by Me later** as I come back in Judgment

1 Peter 2:7... to you who believe, [Jesus] **is precious**; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense."

- **Stone of Stumbling** Did not come as a military leader as they had thought

- **Rock of Offence** Came preaching repentance...an offence to the self-righteous

Parable: Accused them of seeking to kill the Son of God...

19 And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour **sought to lay hands on Him**, but they **feared the people** —for **they knew He had spoken this parable against them.**

III. Pharisees Challenge

Religious Leaders feared the people
Devise a New Plan...Turn the people against Jesus

20 So they watched [Jesus], and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.

- **Religious Leaders send Spies?**
 1. **Pretend Righteousness:** Woke spies. No real virtue just empty words
 2. **End Goal:** Take Jesus words out of context to **sound treasonous against Rome**

21 Then they asked [Jesus], saying, "Teacher, we know that You say and teach rightly, and You do not show personal favoritism, but teach the way of God in truth:

- **Flattery:** When they kiss up get ready its coming...

Proverbs 27:6... the kisses of an enemy are **deceitful.**

Jeremiah 9:8b...One speaks peaceably to his neighbor... But in his heart he **lies in wait**

Proverbs 26:28b... a flattering mouth **works ruin.**

Proverbs 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor **spreads a net for his feet.**

- **Honey in the trap...** You say what is right/Don't show favoritism/Teach Truth

Setup: You don't care what anybody thinks about what You say
 You're the kind'a Guy who just says what You think. You're Great!

22 Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

- **Designed to trap...not learn:** Real sickness as putrefied infection

IOWs Does the Law of Moses command God's people to pay taxes to a Pagan Nation?

This seemed to put Jesus on the horns of a dilemma. If He agreed the tax **should be** paid, He seems to deny the sovereignty of God over Israel, and will lose popular support. If He

says that it **should not** be paid, He declares Himself an enemy of Rome, which branded Him as a revolutionary and put His life in danger. [Guzik]

23 But [Jesus] **perceived their craftiness**, and said to them, "Why do you test Me? 24 **Show Me a denarius.**

- Jesus is totally aware of their game
- Tells hypocrites take **Roman coin** from own pocket...

24b...Whose image and inscription does it have?" They answered and said, "**Caesar's.**" 25 And [Jesus] said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

- **Answer: Dual Citizenship means Dual Obligation**
 1. **Rome** builds roads, bridges, sea lanes Pay taxes to Rome/Their work
 2. **God** provides air, water, life Give tithes to God/His work

IOWs We currently hold citizenship with both Earth and Heaven

26 But they **could not catch Him** in His words **in the presence of the people**. And they marveled at His answer and **kept silent.**

- **Marveled** lit. Admired His answer
- **Kept Silent.** Why?

A. They were not seeking an answer but an accusation
Later they would lie about this to Roman Governor Pilate...

Luke 23:2 [To Rome]...they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and **forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar**, saying He Himself is Christ, a King."

Their lying would move Jesus forward to His work on the cross
There, He would die for the sins of all liars and hypocrites

- **Jesus is the Rock of Ages:** His authority is not to be challenged
 1. **Fall on Him in humility** and be saved forever
 2. **Be crushed by Him in your pride** and be lost forever
- **Next week:** Showdown Continues w/Sadducees/Scribes challenge